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## *Soviet Airfield Report By Mondale Retracted*

Vice President Mondale said yesterday the Soviet Union is building a major airfield in southwest Afghanistan from which it could threaten the Persian Gulf region, but the statement was later retracted.

A spokesman for Mondale said U.S. intelligence had informed the vice president the base was not being built.

Speaking to students at Shaker Heights High School near Cleveland, Mondale was asked about administration policies on arms control and detente.

"As you know, the Soviets have not lived up to every expectation we had," Mondale said.

"We now have information that the Soviet Union is building a major new airfield in southwest Afghanistan, where they can base their new aircraft to control the Persian Gulf."

Later yesterday, Mondale's press secretary said there is no Soviet airbase as Mondale said.

"The vice president had been advised by the intelligence community that there were indications the Soviets might be building such a facility," spokesman Al Eisle said.

"Upon further analysis, the intelligence community said that this has not been confirmed."